

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Stewardship Q and A



What is stewardship?

Stewardship is the prayerful work of managing our time, talent, and treasure, to reflect our love for God, the world, and one another.

Pledging is an important Christian spiritual practice, enabling us to grow intentionally in faith and generosity in every part of our lives. Our pledges to St. Peter's are an outward sign of our gratitude for all God has given us.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is your commitment to make a financial gift that supports the mission of St. Peter's. Pledging is a response to God's call and abundance in our own lives; it is an act of thanksgiving. We also invite you to make a pledge of your time and talent to the parish.

What happens to the money I give?

Your pledge supports everything we experience at St. Peter's - worship, music, pastoral care, staff salaries, formation programs, outreach, care of our buildings, discipleship, and the work we do in the larger community. In the last stewardship campaign pledges made by parishioners and friends amounted to 35% of the 2025 budget.

How much should I pledge?

We ask each parishioner to consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant based on his or her financial situation. A tithe (10% of your income) has long been held as a standard of Christian giving. For most, it is a goal to be reached through incremental increases each year. Every pledge, no matter what amount, makes a valued contribution to our ministry and mission.

Who sees the amount of my pledge?

The pledge you make is confidential, seen only by the treasurer who records all pledges and sends out quarterly statements to inform you of your giving.

When should I pledge?

We ask everyone to make a pledge by Commitment Sunday, November 23rd, by bringing your pledge statement to church or by mailing it, as this helps us establish our budget for 2026. However, pledges are welcome throughout the coming year.

Do I have to pay when I pledge? Can I pay in installments?

You may fulfill your pledge in as many offerings as you wish throughout the coming year. Some people find it practical and part of their spiritual discipline to fulfill their pledge by making weekly donations in Sunday worship. Others make their offering monthly, quarterly, or with one annual gift. Our hope is that pledge made for the calendar year 2026 is fulfilled in that year.

What happens if I cannot give as much as I pledged?

If your circumstances changes, you may notify the church treasurer that you need to change your pledge. If you are blessed with unexpected income, you're always welcome to change your pledge by increasing it.

Can I pay electronically or by other means?

You can set up payments through your bank's bill pay features. Simply use St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Portland as the payee. Such contributions can be set up weekly, monthly, or yearly. Your bank will notify you of your contributions, which you can stop at any time.

You can also make gifts using St. Peter's Venmo account. You will find the QR code at St. Peter's and on the back of the weekly worship leaflet.

Alternatively, you can give online through St. Peter's website. Click on the donate button at the bottom left hand corner of the home page on our website, www.stpetersepiscopalportme.org. Here you can give a single gift or ongoing gifts. Although the Diocese of Maine processes these gifts, 100% of your donation comes to St. Peter's.